

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

July 16, 2015

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Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker



Click on the image to watch MoDOT Interim Director Roberta Broeker talk about MoDOT's involvement with flooding across the state.

Looking for MoDOT Gear? Visit the MoDOT Store!

by Tammy Wallace

When you see a coworker wearing a shirt or hat with the MoDOT logo, do you ever think, "That look cool. I wish I had that"? Well now you can!



MoDOT has partnered with Boundless, a promotional products online company, to provide employees an easy way to purchase products that proudly display our MoDOT logo. Shirts, sweatshirts, outerwear, headwear and bags for both men and women in a variety of styles and colors can be found on the website and purchased by employees online. The items do not include personal protection equipment, and regular sales taxes apply.

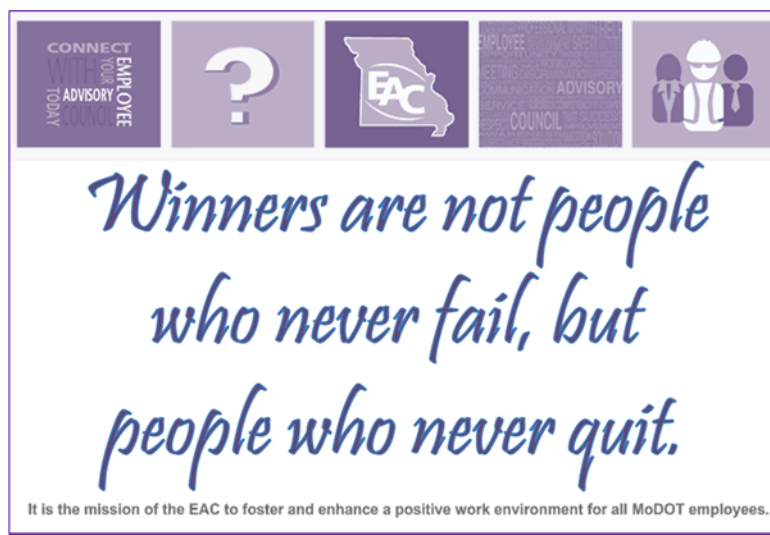
When you're ready to shop, just click on the website link, which will take you to Boundless' home page. Next, you will set up a user name and password, and click the login button, which will take you to our MoDOT site. You can then browse through the items available in the MoDOT store. Just choose the item(s) you want to purchase, select the size, color and MoDOT logo and you're on your way.

The website is easy to navigate and offers an email link to Kevin Quinn, our sales representative in Lee's Summit, for any assistance you may need.

You can also shop on Boundless' home page, which offers a larger variety of items. However, these items have a 12 quantity minimum. Items in the MoDOT store can be purchased in quantities of one or more.

The link to the MoDOT Store has been added to the left side of our SharePoint homepage so you will always know where to find it.

Take a look today and see what you'll soon be wearing to make your coworkers think, "That's cool. I wish I had that"! MoDOT Store.



Blue Book Photo Contest: "A Day at the Park"

Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander has launched the statewide photo contest for the 2015-2016 Official Manual, State of Missouri (Blue Book). The theme for this year's contest is "A Day at the Park," celebrating all types of Missouri parks.

Kander encourages Missouri residents to celebrate all types of Missouri parks by sharing their photos of favorite locations and memories. Outstanding photographs will be chosen from each of the following three categories and will be published in the upcoming Blue Book:

1. State and Local Parks
2. Sports and Theme Parks
3. State Historical Sites

Entry forms and contest rules are available on the Secretary of State's website - Bluebook Contest.

Entries may be submitted by email: publications@sos.mo.gov or by mail: Official Manual Photo Contest, Office of the Secretary of State, Division of Publications, PO Box 1767, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1767.

Missouri residents of all ages are invited to participate in the contest. Participants may submit any number of photographs, but each photo must be accompanied by its own entry form. All entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7.

Photo contest winners will be chosen through a combination of online voting and selection by a committee within the Secretary of State's office. The winning photos in each category will be published in the 2015-2016 edition of the Blue Book. All entries become the property of the Office of the Secretary of State and may be used in subsequent publications, with full credit given to the photographer. All submitted photographs will be added to the permanent collection of the Missouri State Archives, a division of Kander's office.



2013 Bluebook first place contest winner in the sporting events and competitions category, Barbara Good, with Mounted Drill Team at Barx Timed Event Arena in Vienna, Missouri.

Pass on Left, Drive on Right Voted Favorite Digital Safety Message

by Linda Wilson-Horn

Drivers on Missouri's interstates and major highways drive past one of 250 digital signs each day. MoDOT posts safety messages on these signs. From mid-May to mid-June, more than 830 people voted on their favorite message out of a list of 16 messages used on Missouri's signs. The top three messages to receive votes were:

1. Pass on Left, Drive on Right
2. Put Down Your Phone and Drive
3. Turn Signals the Original Instant Message

The primary purpose of the dynamic message signs is to convey critical information to motorists about lane closures or complete road closures. When the roads are clear of incidents, the signs convey safety messages to get motorists' attention.



"The results of the vote show us the messages regarding driver behavior concerns are the ones motorists like the most, including passing, distracted driving and use of turn signals," said MoDOT Traffic Management and Operations Engineer Jon Nelson. "Our goal is to find ways to get the safety message to drivers so people will stop, think and make the right safety choice before they drive without a seatbelt or pick up their phone and text while they drive," said Nelson.



MoDOT received many ideas for new messages from our customers, which we will incorporate into our messaging over the coming months. Missourians are invited to continue to submit their ideas for new messages. The space on the sign is limited to three lines with 16 spaces on each line. Message topics and ideas can be emailed to MoDOT at MoMessageBoards@modot.mo.gov.



What's Happening



Attention 2015 Service Award Recipients!

Starting Aug. 3, 2015 the service award vendor will begin mailing out your brochure packet with the gifts you are eligible to receive.

Please keep your eyes open for this packet to arrive at your home address. Instructions for placing your order will be included in the packet.



Deferred Compensation Update

July's Deferred Comp update is packed with helpful information about enrollment, electronically accessing your account and planning for retirement.

Check out this month's update – July DC Update.



Amtrak Missouri River Runner Offers Kids Fare for State Fair - Kids Ride for \$5 to Sedalia

Families planning to attend the Missouri State Fair August 13-23 in Sedalia can get a special \$5 kids fare when they take the Amtrak Missouri River Runner. The special applies to up to two children ages 2-12 accompanied by a regular fare adult while traveling together. Read more.

**Connections**

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Communications - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

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Annual Food Drive a Success

Central Office and Central District employees gave generously to the second annual MoDOT Food Drive. In total, 340 pounds of food and \$130 were donated. Those Donations have been delivered to the The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. The Food Bank provides assistance to soup kitchens, emergency food pantries, shelters for the abused and homeless, low-income children and senior citizens.

Districts also collected donations for local organizations. At the time of publication those totals reported were:

Kansas City – two barrels of food
Southeast – 301 pounds of food and \$55
Northwest – 303 pounds of food and \$127
Northeast – \$560

Thanks to everyone who helped with the collections and to those who donated!



July Health and Safety Tips *Where's Baby?*

by Patrick Wood

Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash-related fatalities for children. From 1998 to 2014, 724 children died due to heatstroke. Of these fatalities, 54 percent were forgotten in the vehicle. These deaths could have been prevented.

It is important to know that a child's body temperature can heat up three to five times faster than that of an adult. If their core temperature reaches 107, it can become lethal. At an outside temperature of 80 degrees, the temperature inside a vehicle can be deadly in a matter of minutes. Heatstroke isn't only associated with the warm temperatures of spring and summer. It can occur at temperatures as low as 57 degrees. The temperature inside a vehicle can heat up by 20 degrees in 10 minutes, and rolling the windows down or parking in the shade does little to help cool the vehicle off in these conditions.

While no parent wants to think a tragedy such as this could happen to them, preventable accidents occur. In 2014, there were 32 children that died of heatstroke in the United States.

To prevent heatstroke inside a car remember:

- Never leave a child alone in a parked car.
- Always look in both the front and back seat when you leave the vehicle.
- Lock your vehicle doors and the keys out of a child's reach to ensure they cannot accidentally trap themselves inside the vehicle.

Whether dropping off a child is part of a daily routine or something only done occasionally, there are some simple steps to help remember that a child is in the vehicle:

- Place an item that you need for your destination next to the car seat.
- Call your spouse after you drop the child off and have them contact you if they don't receive your call to ensure you don't forget.
- Have the daycare call you if your child does not show up.



Central Office Happenings



Compost Happens

By Scott Marion

Tuesday, July 28 – 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Central Office Human Resources Training Room B

601 West Main

Or anywhere via video conference

Composting is a natural decomposition process that breaks down plant and food scraps into a substance that is excellent for enriching the soil, resulting in healthy lawns and gardens of all kinds.

Come join us to speak with our director of Motor Carrier Services and Master Gardener, Scott Marion, about how to start your own compost.

Space is limited for the in-person class at Central Office, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through MoDOT U using the following instructions:

Go to the search tab and search “Compost Happens.”

Find MEE Zone: Compost Happens and Click the enroll icon on the far right.

Click enroll in the top right corner of the pop up box.

You will receive an email with a calendar invitation.

For questions or to enroll via video conference, contact Amanda Woody at Amanda.woody@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-5617.



Still Needing State Fair Volunteers

It's time to recruit volunteers to work at the MoDOT Highway Gardens building at the 2015 Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. We're looking for six Central Office volunteers for Sunday, August 16, eight volunteers for Saturday, Aug. 22 and six volunteers for Sunday, Aug. 23.

If you can help, please email Patrick.Wood@modot.mo.gov or call 573-522-3796 if you are interested in volunteering.

For more information on the State Fair and this year's schedule of events, visit <http://www.mostatefair.com/home>.



New Sam's Club

Missouri State employees are invited to get a sneak peak of the new Jefferson City Sam's Club on Monday, July 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. The sneak peak includes a picnic dinner.

The new store is located at 849 Stoneridge Parkway - Flier.

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No Crossing Zone

It's been planned for several years and brings many safety improvements, but motorists and local residents will have to wait a bit longer to use the new Bankers Crossing Bridge. Contractors from Phillips Hardy have been working for several months to build a new, wider, safer bridge on U.S. Route 59 south of St. Joseph alongside the existing structure. The old bridge, built in 1936, carries more than 5,000 cars per day. This has caused some traffic snarls, as it is the main artery between St. Joseph and Atchison, Kan.

Message boards have been in place leading up to the closure, public notifications and press releases have gone out, and a signed detour is in place over three numbered routes. However, some traffic has been diverting to gravel roads to attempt a quick bypass of the closure, resulting in some bigger headaches and longer delays for those seeking a shortcut.

Local residents wish those who don't follow the signed detour would slow down on their neighborhood gravel road, but are understanding of the need to close the bridge for 30 calendar days to tie it into the existing roadway. They eagerly anticipate the new bridge which will be 16-feet wider with 8-foot shoulders and realigns the roadway, improving sight distance for all that travel it.



The old Bankers Crossing Bridge, built in 1936, crosses the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad south of St. Joseph.



Taken by the St. Joseph News-Press, this photo shows the first day of the closure to tie the new bridge into the existing roadway.

Lifesavers

The crash pictured below happened last week in Northwest Missouri. What you can't see is the Truck Mounted Attenuator (TMA). As all of us at MoDOT know, TMAs are built to absorb the impact of a crash in a work zone. The impact of this crash collapsed the TMA and drove it under the dump truck hauling it. The crash also knocked the transmission out of the dump truck. Both the driver of the dump truck and the semi were injured, but they survived. So did the crew workers that were on foot in the work zone ahead of the TMA. This tool saved many lives that day.

While we know some motorists drive by and see a truck pulling a TMA 'just sitting' in a work zone and think, "Wow! Wish I had that person's job. They're not even working!", we hope they begin to realize those drivers 'just sitting' are risking their lives to save others.

The image below was posted on social media and has been viewed by almost 120,000 people at the time of printing. Social media can be a vicious place with people anonymously posting and attacking others, but nearly every post was supportive of our workers and the danger they put themselves in every day to make Missouri roads safer for everyone.

Thank you ALL and a speedy recovery to everyone involved!



Thanks to a TMA, both drivers involved in the crash above survived and crew members in the work zone ahead of the TMA and dump truck were uninjured. Thank you to ALL MoDOT roadway workers for putting your lives on the line every day.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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168 Bridge Over Clear Creek Replaced

To help share the message of insufficient funding for Missouri's transportation system, the Northeast District created a video documenting the construction of one of the last bridges on a supplementary system.

Travis Wombell, northeast district bridge engineer, explains the bridge featured in this video. Missouri Route 168 over Clear Creek just north of Hannibal, was built in the 1930s and the types of transportation using the bridge during that time were far different from the vehicles using the bridge today. The original Route 168 bridge was over 80 years old, one lane and had a load limit.



Click on the above image to watch the 168 Bridge Video on Youtube.

"This video will be used as a basis for some of our upcoming personal stories showing how a closed or posted bridge personally affects families and businesses and leads them to learning more about the 325 system," said Marisa Ellison, communication manager.



Below is a picture of the bridge during construction. The project took about three months to complete.



Dusty Wilson from the Hannibal Project Office, Dwayne Bailey with Bleigh Construction, Kent Worthington from Hannibal Project Office, and Delmar Whittaker from Hannibal Project Office, pose for a picture after the completion of the project.

Around the District...



The Warren County Route Y bridge is in the process of being redecked. Above is a picture of the progress made this week on the project.



Jennifer Hinson partakes in the Snack Cantine put on this week at the district office to help raise money for NERF, the Northeast Relief Fund. Cookies, cupcakes, pies, and more were sold to aid Northeast employees during difficult times through NERF proceeds.

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Striping Season Highlights a Busy Time of Year for MoDOT

Striping season is well underway across Missouri and in the Kansas City area. MoDOT crews are restriping at least three thousand miles of major highways across the Kansas City area, giving them a fresh, new look.

Restriping happens during late spring, early summer and sometimes into early fall.

Maintenance Crew Leader Marty Lambertson says restriping is a very important element of roadway maintenance and safety.

"It keeps people in their lanes, it shows them where to go, and it marks the exit ramps and everything so people don't run off the roads," said Lambertson.

Striping crews have seen their share of bumps in the road throughout the striping season. Kansas City has seen a lot of rainfall this year and that's hampered the timing of getting striping work done.

Lambertson says, "That's really hurt us a lot this year because we can't paint if the ground's wet of course or if we put it down and washes it off, which causes a big mess."

While striping is underway, motorists should be on the lookout for large, slow-moving striping trucks. These vehicles are traveling at roughly eight to 12 miles per hour.

If motorists aren't careful, they could come up on a striping truck pretty quickly, which could lead to a crash. The best advice, be prepared to slow down and pull around the striping train of vehicles and merge carefully into the open lane.



Click the image to watch Maintenance Crew Leader Marty Lambertson talk about the importance of striping.

APEX Participants Explore Public Transportation

On Thursday July 25, Accelerated Professional Engineering (APEX) program participants Kati Horner, Dustin Hoyt and Trisha Sen along with district planning staff members Susan Barry, Luke Miller and Joni Roeseler participated in a district urban and rural transit experience.

This was a great opportunity for both young engineers and their professional mentors to explore transit from a different perspective --- public transportation.

Read the full story on [Daily DOT](#).



For more info

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Roadside Park Experiment Proves Successful

A small experiment can make a huge difference. Just such an experiment has helped save a MoDOT Central District roadside park in Crawford and Washington County.

"We have a little roadside park on Route 8 near the Crawford/Washington County Line," said Meramec Area Engineer Preston Kramer. "It's out in the middle of nowhere. It has been problematic for years with lots of trash and illicit activity. The biggest problem was the frequent disposal of what was clearly household garbage. People were using our roadside park as their own dumpster."

Kramer and company looked into another organization taking over the park, but no one wanted it. There were discussions about closing the park, but after bringing it to the attention of local elected officials, it was soon discovered that it would be a very unpopular decision with locals. However, the continued activity at the park and the expense of cleaning it up seemed to leave no other option.

But before Kramer and his crew closed the park, they decided to see if they could conduct a little experiment to save it.

"We decided to complete remove the trash cans, including any evidence that the cans had ever been there," said Kramer. "We also put up a couple 'No Dumping' signs. To our utter amazement, the trash problem immediately went away. It has been this way for nearly a year now, and our trash problem has disappeared. The evidence of illicit activity also appears to have went away, too."

Instead of closing the park, it appears to have been saved for now, thanks to a little "out of the box" thinking. In fact, the park has been revitalized for local residents.

"Our maintenance supervisor has witnessed folks actually using the park to eat their lunch and apparently taking the trash with them," said Kramer. "It's saved on our man power, too. Since we are no longer picking up trash twice a week at this park, our maintenance activities are limited to mowing with our incarcerated crews every so often. So, for now, we have dropped conversations about closing this park."



Fulton Maintenance Participates in 4-H Fair

The Fulton maintenance facility recently participated in the Callaway County 4-H Fair and brought Baby Bob along for the ride. The crew also had the basketball hot shot game and the impaired goggles, as well as a wreck display to educate those present about road safety messages.





Motorist Says "Thank You" for Customer Service

Barry O'Neill is a Medicaid provider who travels the St. Louis area quite a bit and is grateful for the MoDOT's customer service.

O'Neill has spoken to Senior Customer Service Representative Tina Grothoff on quite a few occasions. He recently called into MoDOT's toll-free line for information on flooded roads. Grothoff (pictured left) was able to talk him through an alternate route and O'Neill was thankful that his interaction with MoDOT was pleasant, very informative and saved drive time.

"Tina treats you as if you are the only person driving out there," said O'Neill. "MoDOT's customer service is the best I've ever experienced. My tax dollars are being well spent on our customer service efforts. It was the first time I've ever received this high level of customer service."



For more info

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St. Louis District

New District Maintenance Engineer

The St. Louis district now has a new district maintenance engineer.

Mark Croarkin, recently district bridge engineer, is now managing maintenance operations and overseeing the maintenance of roads and bridges in his new role.

Croarkin graduated from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly UMR) in 1997 with a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering. He earned his license as a Professional Engineer in 2002. Croarkin has worked for MoDOT for 16 years in progressively responsible engineering positions.

Croarkin's background includes a variety of roles from across the state. He has held positions in six of MoDOT's seven districts throughout his career with the department. He started as a construction intern in Van Buren (former D9) and worked in Construction and Materials inspection roles in the NW and KC districts. He held position as resident engineer in Troy (NE) and resident engineer for Safe and Sound Design-Build Project (Central Office). His most recent position was district bridge engineer in the St. Louis district.

"Mark brings engineering experience from all across the state of Missouri. I look forward to seeing him implement his wealth of MoDOT experience, knowledge of St. Louis and passion for work into his new role as district maintenance engineer," said Tom Blair, assistant district engineer.

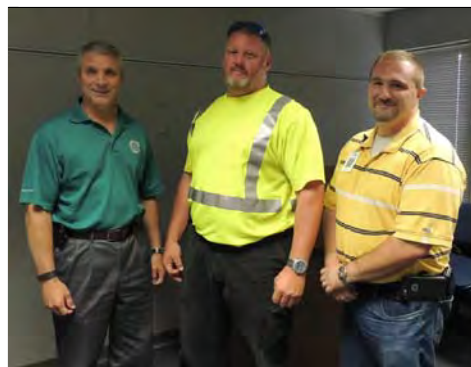
Croarkin began his new role as district maintenance engineer on July 7.



Maintenance Worker's Commitment to Safety leads to Recognition

by Shaunda White

A St. Louis maintenance worker who recently sat on the interview panel for the district's safety and health manager position has earned safety recognition for April.



Jay Johnson (middle) receives safety recognition at the SL staff meeting from district engineer Greg Horn (l) and Safety and Health manager Scott Melton (r).

Jay Johnson, St. Charles maintenance worker, received the recognition because of his work ethics and commitment to the safety of his co-workers.

Johnson starts his workday by making sure all of the crew members have sufficient personal protective equipment before they leave the building. He takes pride in helping co-workers complete, understand and give their input on risk base assessments. He assists with on the job training for Gear Up and is a mentor for new employees.

Johnson was nominated for the safety recognition by his supervisor, Chris Hannar.

"Jay has a passion for safety and it shows on the job every day. It is obvious that he cares about the safety of everyone around him," said Hannar.

In addition to the recognition, Johnson will receive a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off and a Safety Employee of the Month certificate.

Like Us on Facebook



The Voice of SL now has a facebook page. Please find us and like us for weekly transportation facts and up-to-date Voice of SL events and district information.
<https://www.facebook.com/ModotVoiceOfSL>

For more info

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Southwest District Copes with Second Round of Flooding



REPAIR WORK – Galena Intermediate Maintenance Worker Jason Bonner operates a backhoe during repairs of drainage pipes damage on Stone County Route 413 in Reeds Spring during flooding July 7. (Photo/David Mitchell)



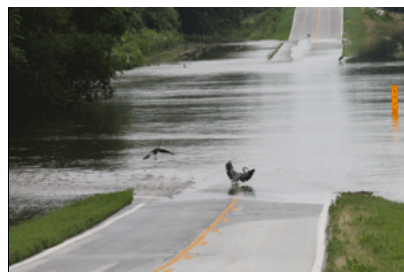
CHECKING FOR DAMAGE – Galena Maintenance Supervisor Larry Wilson (left) and Galena Senior Maintenance Worker Tim Lindeman check under a bridge on Route V near Ponce de Leon for damage during heavy rain and flooding July 7. (Photo/David Mitchell)



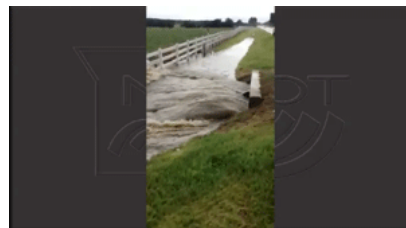
PIPE DAMAGE – Drain pipes are ripped up by flood water on Vernon County Route TT in Vernon County near Panama on July 7. Route TT was closed until MoDOT crews could make repairs.



ROAD CLOSED – Heavy rain in the Southwest District caused flood water to close Loop 44 (Chestnut Expressway) in western Springfield July 5. (Photo/Bob Becker)



HIGH WATER – Flood water covers Barton County Route 126 west of Interstate 49 north of Jasper following heavy rain on July 7. (Photo/David Mitchell)



HERE WE GO AGAIN – Heavy rain caused flooding over large parts of the Southwest District last week. Click the image above to see a short video of flooding on Barry County Route 37 south of Cassville July 9.

Gophers Pay Up!

by David Mitchell

The Southwest District Maintenance Department raised nearly \$2,600 for the statewide charitable campaign during March and April this year.

As a way to encourage donations, members of the maintenance management team promised to be “gophers” – working a day for the maintenance building in each superintendent’s area that raised the most money per person.

Winning buildings were:

- Cassville
- Butler
- Clinton
- Springfield
- Buffalo

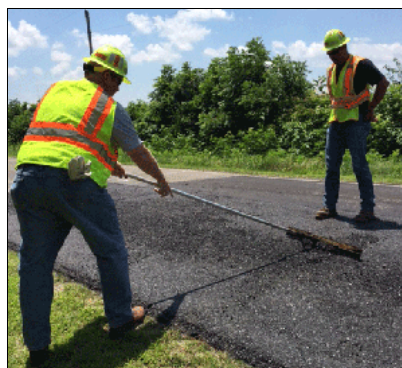
Each winning building got up to two gophers for the day, doing various maintenance tasks under the direction of the winning building’s maintenance supervisor.

Gophers by building were:

- Cassville – Assistant Maintenance Engineer Bob Becker, District Office Maintenance Superintendent Tim Bundgard
- Butler – Assistant Maintenance Engineer Bob Becker, I-44 Corridor Maintenance Superintendent Mark McCoy
- Clinton – District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton
- Springfield – Central Area Maintenance Superintendent Brett Hicks, Western Area Maintenance Superintendent Steve Smith
- Buffalo – Intermediate Safety Officer Doug Foley



District Office Maintenance Superintendent Tim Bundgard fulfills his gopher obligation operating a roller on Missouri Route PP in Lawrence County on June 29.



Under the supervision of Cassville Maintenance Supervisor David Colf (right), Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Bob Becker helps spread asphalt while being a gopher for the Cassville maintenance building June 29.

For more info

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Springfield, MO 65801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

July 16, 2015

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Southeast District Helps Fight Hunger

One in six Americans struggles with food insecurities, according to "Feeding America." Food insecurities are defined as the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

In Missouri, approximately \$474,080,000 is needed to meet the food needs. While this number may seem insurmountable, every little bit helps. Actually, a donation of only \$2.60 can provide a fellow Missourian with a meal.

MoDOT's Southeast District recently pitched in to help Southeast Missouri families by holding a food drive. Through the drive, 301 pounds of food and \$55 in cash donations were received!

If you are interested in learning more about the SEMO Food Bank, please visit www.semofoodbank.org. Additional information about hunger across the U.S. and in Missouri is available at www.feedingamerica.org.

Photo: SE District employees received a shout out and thank you for participating in the food drive from the SEMO Food Bank on Facebook. Executive Assistant Doris Dumey is included in the photo with the \$55 cash donation and 301 pounds of food.



Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger Visits Southeast District



SE District employees filled the Willow Springs maintenance facility on July 9 to chat with Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger. Funding was a big portion of the discussion, and Hassinger also accepted questions from the attendees.

Blood Drive Held at Southeast District Office



Thanks to everyone who helped make the July 8 blood drive a success! Thirty-two individuals were present to donate, and a total of 27 productive units were collected. This donation has the potential to save 81 lives (3 lives per 1 unit)!

Kudos to Cape Maintenance Crew

The SE District Customer Service team likes to hear about all of the great things maintenance crews are doing across the 25-county region. Please see a recollection of a call Senior Customer Service Representative Barbara Conner had the pleasure of receiving below:

A gentleman called and said that when he woke up early Saturday morning he could tell that one of his trees had fallen into the road on Route 74 in Cape Girardeau County. Without his knowledge, MoDOT had removed the tree very early that morning, and he could only see where it had been. It had to be very early, but MoDOT also took time to clean the tree off of his driveway.

To say that this gentleman was overjoyed is an understatement!

For more info

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